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For working and finishing marble on the bench the following is the process: After the marble is sawn into slab, the first operation is to grind it down with a flat coarse sandstone and water, or with an iron plate, fed with fine sand and water, until all the marks of the saw are perfectly removed; secondly, a fine sandstone is used with water until the marks made by the first stone are removed; thirdly, a finer sandstone is applied to work out the marks of the former; fourthly, pumice stone with water, and fifthly, snake stone is used, and this last finishes what is called the grounding.

Next comes the polishing, which is principally performed with rollers of woolen cloth or list made to the size of about three inches diameter. As the sixth process, a rubber is charged with flour emery and a moderate degree of moisture; this rubber is worked uniformly over every part until the marble acquires a kind of greasy polish; seventhly, the work is completed with a similar roll of cloth charged with putty powder and water. Some prefer, as the polisher, an old cotton stocking not made into a rubber, and in some few of the more delicate works crocus is used intermediately between the emery and the putty powder. It is necessary to wash the marble after each operation, so that not a particle of the previous polishing material may remain, otherwise the work will be scratched.

The dull parts of sculpture are finished in four different manners, or rather the complete process of smoothing is discontinued at various stages so as to form four gradations.